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Urban District Council of Padiham

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year Ending December 31st, 1959

J. W. J. FORSYTHE, M.B., C.H.B., B.A.O.
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1959

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my thirty fourth Annual Report dealing with the health of the inhabitants of Padiham during 1959.

Acting on the instruction of the Ministry of Health this will be an interim report, confined to essential or urgent matters which have affected the Public Health during the year, such as overcrowding, sanitation, distribution of clean food, and outbreaks of infectious diseases etc.

VITAL STATISTICS

Mortality rates per 1,000 est. population -	
Total (all forms)	
Crude rate	15·7
Adjusted rate	16·0
Respiratory T.B.	Nil
Malignant neoplasms, etc. (Columns 10 - 15 incl. of S.D. 30)	2·23
Live birth rates per 1,000 est. population -	
Crude rate	14·5
Adjusted rate	14·9
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births	27·2
Maternal mortality per 1,000 total births	Nil
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	21·0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	14·0
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	7·0
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	34·0

Population — Estimated mid-year Home Population 9,860

Comparability Factors — Births 1·03; Deaths 1·02

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	71	67	143
Illegitimate	3	2	
Still Births			
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	1	2	3
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	1	1	2
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age	1	-	1
Deaths from all causes	72	83	155

Causes of Death

Malignant neoplasm - Uterus	2
Stomach	1
Lungs	5
Breast	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12
Vascular lesions of nervous system	21

Causes of Death continued

Coronary disease, angina	32
Hypertension with heart disease	4
Other heart diseases	25
Other circulatory diseases	8
Influenza	2
Pneumonia	2
Bronchitis	13
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12
Accidents	4
Suicide	5
Motor accidents	1
Infective and parasitic diseases	1

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The unemployment which occurred during 1952 and which was more or less confined to Cottom Operatives was less prevalent during 1959.

Most of the mills in Padiham run their own canteens and these should be encouraged and used more than the are, by the workers.

The County Council has control of two nurseries in the area where children under school age, of women engaged in industry are looked after. The staff in these nurseries have been instructed to isolate or send home any child who is not well and thus prevent infections from spreading.

All the schools in the district provide dinners for the children and this is to be highly commended.

In connection with the welfare of the old people, a voluntary association has been set up and is doing valuable work, such as, letter writing, doing shopping when necessary, giving advice and arranging for domestic help in cases of sickness.

So far as the health of the aged is concerned there is no doubt that the scns and daughters will have to bear their fair share of looking after them and not leave it to others.

A hostel for the aged people is almost completed and this should prove a huge success and relieve a much needed want.

The Ministry of Health has been rather disturbed about arrangements for relief duty especially at nights in Midwifery but so far as Padiham is concerned no complaints have been received and the rota system is working very satisfactorily.

The health of the inhabitants has been fairly good during the year and so far as recreations are concerned full advantage was taken of all the facilities controlled by the Local Authority and the various Sunday Schools.

Valuable work is being done by the association formed to help handicapped and disabled people in Padiham.

From observations of my own and those of the local Practitioners, there seems to be more dental caries than normal and as the flourine content of the water was rather low arrangements have been made to adter this.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply has been good both in quantity and quality. Chemically and bacteriologically the water has been excellent. The following is a detailed report of a sample taken from the domestic supply in Padiham.

(a) PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Colour - Hazen Units	None
Appearance	Clear and bright
Taste	None
Odour	None

(b) GENERAL CHEMICAL EXAMINATION (Results in parts per million)

Reaction (pH Value)	6.5
Free carbon dioxide (as CO_2)	2.5
Free and Saline Nitrogen (as N)	0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen (as N)	0.02
Nitrous Nitrogen (as N)	nil
Nitric Nitrogen (as N)	1.0
Total Hardness by E.D.T.A. method as $CaCO_3$	30
Temporary Hardness (as $CaCO_3$)	5
Permanent Hardness (as $CaCO_3$)	25
Total Alkalinity (as $CaCO_3$)	5
Permanganate Figure (as O) (4 hours at 80°F)	0.6
Total Solids (dried at 105°C)	75
Free Chlorine	nil

(c) MINERAL ANALYSIS

Calcium as Ca	-
Magnesium as Mg	-
Sodium as Na	-
Carbonate as CO_3	3.0
Chloride as Cl	14
Sulphate as SO_4	-
Nitrate as NO_3	4.4
Nitrite as NO_2	nil
Silicate as SiO_2	-
Iron as Fe	nil
Lead as Pb	0.11
Copper as Cu	nil
Zinc as Zn	nil
Fluorine as F	-

(d) MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION

There was no visible suspended matter and on settlement no animal or vegetable life could be detected.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

Houses - Public Health Act	172
Houses - Housing Act	159
Fireguard Act	2
Common Loding Houses	6
Infectious diseases cases	9
Rodent control	132
Revisits	174
Factories	27
Workshops	3
Shops Act	633

Smoke Observations	53
Bakehouses	36
Fish and Chip shops	35
Food premises	48
Butchers shops	44
Ice cream premises	23
Slaughterhouses	203
Milk sampling	24
Ice cream sampling	4
Tinned and other foods	4
Houses - disinfection	1
Houses - disinfestation	11
Domestic refuse collection	194
Refuse disposal (Tips)	385
Salvage	394
Miscellaneous	460
Overcrowding	5
Rent Act	27
Trade Refuse Collection	31
	3299
Interviews	135

DERATISATION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) RODENT CONTROL

This is effectively controlled by the Rodent Operator. Sausage rusk bait and Zinc Phosphide poison, damp bread mash and arsenic oxide poison were used. Warfarin is now also used as a bait, and Paranitrophenol has been introduced into all baits as a preservative.

(b) DISINFESTATION

Five premises were dealt with for vermin; one for cockroaches, one for flies, one for fleas and two for bugs. The refuse tip at Lumb Wood was periodically dusted with D.D.T. powder to ensure cockroach and cricket control.

FOOD

Food Hygiene Regulations

Regular visits were made to food preparing premises, and it is a pleasure to report that it has not been necessary to make any official representation. One complaint was received regarding a dog in a mobile shop and appropriate action taken.

Ministry of Health Circular 19/56

i and iii Type of Food Premises	Number	Inspections
Bakers and Confectioners	18	36
Butchers and Meat purveyors	17	44
Cafes and Snack Bars	4	13
Chemists	4	8
Cooked foods	2	4
Fish fryers	12	35
Fishmongers	3	6
Greengrocers	13	20
Grocers	62	122
Licenced premises	16	32
Aerated waters (Mineral)	2	4
Off licence	10	20
Poultry dealer	1	12
Potato merchant	1	2
Sweets - Sugar confections	10	43
Wine merchants	2	4
Tripe dresser	1	4

ii. Milk and Dairies

The following registration and licencing matters were dealt with during the year:-

Number of persons registered as Distributors of Milk	46
Number of premises registered as Dairies	6
Number of dealers licenced to use Special Designation 'Tuberculin Tested'	10
Number of dealers licenced to use Special Designation 'Pasteurised'	33
Number of dealers licenced to use Special Designation 'Sterilised'	28
Total Number of Approvals	123

iv. The following is the state of registered premises:-

Number of premises registered for sale or manufacture of ice-cream	61
Number of premises registered for preparation or manufacture of sausage or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food	43
Total number of registrations during the year	3

v. Condemned food is disposed of by burial on the controlled tip.

vi. 262 packages of various foodstuffs weighing 258 lbs 10½ oz. were condemned and destroyed.

MEAT REGULATIONS

These have been closely watched by the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed (if known)	31	70	3	889	1
Number Inspected	31	70	3	889	1
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	5	14	Nil	96	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease owther than T.B. and Cysticerci	16%	20%	Nil	10.9%	Nil
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	3.3%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Meat Inspection continued

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs
Cysticerosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Organs Condemned

Cow Livers	12	Ox Livers	4	Sheep Livers	93
Cow Lungs	1	Ox Kidney	1	Sheep Lung	2
				Sheep Heart	1

vii. The Public Health (Meat Regulations, 1924) Act

Two contravention were observed during the year, and the offenders were duly warned.

viii. Food Poisoning

No case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

ix. Offensive Trades

The following offensive trades are now in existence in the area.

Tripe Boiler	1
Size Maker	1
Fish Fryers	12

The various premises have been inspected on 42 occasions.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

At long last Padiham is without a Common Lodging House and I hope this state of affairs will last for ever.

CLEAN AIR ACT

The main feature of the year was the receipt of Circular no. 5/5 from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in which Local Authorities were requested to produce a "blue print" of proposals to deal with domestic smoke over the next five years. A sub-committee was appointed to advise on this matter and a policy programme was evolved and approved by Council.

A Clean Air Exhibition was held on three days during November in the Public Hall and was very well attended by the public, including many visitors from outside the district.

During this period, a detailed survey of the proposed no. 1 Smoke Control Area was in progress. This survey revealed the following facts:-

(a)	Number of premises in the area	173
(b)	Number of appliances requiring replacement	186
(c)	Total cost	£2,800
(d)	Exchequer contribution	£1,200

(e) i.	Tonnage of bituminous coal now used	554 per annum
ii.	Tonnage of smokeless fuel required	500 per annum
iii.	Additional kilowatt hours of electricity	14,700
iv.	Additional therms of gas	2,350

Arising out of the survey, Council made the Padiham No. 1 Smoke Control Area Order which was submitted to the Ministry for approval in accordance with Section 11 of the Act.

Five complaints were received during the year and 37 smoke observations were made. 185 interviews and discussions with householders and managements took place during the year.

HOUSING

(a) Number of new houses erected during the year 20

(b) Number of houses erected under the various acts:-

i. Housing Act, 1919	31
ii. Housing Act, 1923/24	170
iii. Housing Act, 1930/36	228
iv. Housing Act, 1936/46	21
v. Housing Act, 1946/51	260
vi. Housing Act, 1957	38
Total	742

(c) Overcrowding

No overcrowding, as set down in the Housing Act, was observed during the year although four cases of complaints by tenants were submitted to the Committee.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

11 houses are left in the original five year plan for demolition. Next five year plan is to be undertaken and 234 obsolete houses will need investigation.

Approximate number of back to back houses	114
Approximate number of back to earth houses	Nil
Other houses without through ventilation	100 (Estimated)

Housing schemes are in progress to replace slum dwellings demolished or to be demolished in the near future.

Demolition and Closing Orders:-

Housing Act, 1957	Houses	Number of Persons Displaced
(a) Demolished - Section 16	34	25
(b) Closed - undertaking still in force	4	18
Repairs		
Rendered fit - informal action	15	
Public Health Act		
Defects remedied (1) By owners	4	
(2) By Local Authority	Nil	

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1959 was more or less a normal year.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases (other then Tuberculosis) were notified during the year.

Measles	37
Chicken Pox	56
Scarlet Fever	2

Infectious Diseases (continued)

Whooping Cough	8
Dysentry	1
Pneumonia	1

TUBERCULOSIS

The following cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year:-

Respiratory	6
Non-respiratory	-

All new cases are thoroughly investigated and followed up, and all the new treatments are showing excellent results as shown by the decreased death rate from Tuberculosis. Immediate contacts are X-rayed, given the Montoux Test and examined by the Chest Physician.

It is my firm contention that the Mass Radiographic Unit should visit our area more frequently, say alternate years, and in this way, keep tuberculosis under better control.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

For years I have advocated that Padiham should have a public swimming bath, but to the present nothing has been done about it.

FACTORIES ACT

Inspections

Premises	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices
Factories with Mechanical Power	27	1
Factories without Mechanical Power	3	Nil

Defects Found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Unsatisfactory Sanitary Conveniences	Nil	1	Nil	1

Classification of Factories and Workshops:-

Abrasive Wheel Manufacturing	1
Abrasive Crushing and Grinding.	1
Bread and Confectionery	11
Boiled Sweet Makers	2
Book Binding and Packing	1
Boot repairers and cloggers	4
Carpet Manufacturing.	1
Cotton Weaving etc.	7
Cotton Waste Sorter	1
Corn Grinder	2
Cushion Maker	1
Dress-making, Milliners etc.	2
Drysalter	1
Electrical Generation	1
Electrical Engineering	2
Engineering (Jobbing)	2
Fireplace Makers	2
Gas Appliance Maker	1
Hospital Clothing Maker	1

Iron Founding	1
Joinery	4
Jute Pulling	1
Laundry	1
Motor Vehicle Repairer	4
Minerals (Aerated) Waters	2
Mop Makers	1
Printers	4
Painters	1
Poultry Plucking	1
Power Owners	2
Photographers	1
Plumbers	3
Plush Weaving	1
Rag and Fent Sorting	1
Reed Makers	1
Salvage Packing	1
Silk Weaving	1
Size Makers	1
Tailors	1
Tripe Dressers	1
Wadding (Laminated)	1
Wireless/Television	2

The number of Factories now in the Register is 61
The number of Workplaces now in the Register is 13
The number of Bakehouses now in the Register is 15

To bring about closer co-operation between the Local Authority and H. M. Inspector of Factories, the Council now advise persons who submit plans for factory premises to consult H. M. Inspector of Factories as to whether the proposed lavatory accommodation etc. complies with legal requirements.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Clerk of the Council, the Public Health Inspector and the Surveyor for their loyal co-operation during the year.

I am,
Madam and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant

J. W. J. FORSYTHE

Medical Officer of Health